

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2856

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STATE FOR NEA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, AG

SUBJ: NEWSWEEK REGIONAL EDITOR DENIED ENTRANCE

REF: STATE 179978

1. NEWSWEEK REGIONAL EDITOR (EUROPE) ED BEHR TURNED AWAY AT ALGIERS AIRPORT AUG 6 AND SENT BACK TO PARIS. NO REASON GIVEN. CORRESPONDENT CARRIES BRITISH PASSPORT SO VISA NO PROBLEM. BEFORE COMING, BEHR ASKED NEWSWEEK STRINGER HERE TO ARRANGE, IF POSSIBLE, INTERVIEWS WITH A COUPLE OF "BRIGHT YOUNG TECHNOCRATS" IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY, BUT OTHERWISE WOULD DO HIS OWN LEGWORK. HE ALSO CABLED FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFILKA TO REQUEST AN INTERVIEW.

2. ALTHOUGH BEHR MADE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH EMBASSY, HE ASKED STRINGER BY TELEPHONE FROM AIRPORT TO CONTACT AMERICAN AND BRITISH EMBASSIES AND CONVEY MESSAGE THAT HE WISHED TO LODGE PROTEST. BRITISH HAVE INFORMED FOREIGN OFFICE BUT PLAN NO ACTION. EMBASSY PLANS INFORMALLY RAISE QUESTION IN MINISTRIES FOREIGN AFFAIRS (PRESS AND INFORMATION DIVISION) AND INFORMATION OF CULTURE.

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3. ALGERIANS HAVE BEEN MIFFED SINCE MARCH OPEC SUMMIT WHEN U.S. MEDIA SENT "REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS" (BEIRUT, PARIS, BONN, ETC.) TO COVER THE EVENT RATHER THAN MORE PRESTIGIOUS JOURNALISTS FROM NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. ALGERIANS FELT SUMMIT WAS THEIR SHINING HOUR IN INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND DESERVED BIGGER PLAY. IN EARLIER JACK FOISIE (LOS ANGELES TIMES) CASE, EMBASSY HAS SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE ASKING IF FOISIE VISA DENIAL BECAUSE HE "REGIONAL" CORRESPONDENT REPRESENTS OFFICIAL GOA POLICY. SO FAR, NO RESPONSE.
PARKER

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